

By Mr. CRAIG (for himself and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 2504. A bill to amend title VI of the Clean Air Act with respect to the phaseout schedule for methyl bromide; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. BOND, Mr. INOUE, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. CONRAD, and Mr. KERREY):

S. 2505. A bill to amend title X VIII of the Social Security Act to provide increased access to health care for medical beneficiaries through telemedicine; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GORTON:

S. 2506. A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, with respect to the Federal preemption of State law concerning the regulation of marine and ocean navigation, safety, and transportation by States; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SHELBY:

S. 2507. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2001 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself and Mr. ALLARD):

S. 2508. A bill to amend the Colorado Ute Indian Water Rights Settlement Act of 1988 to provide for a final settlement of the claims of the Colorado Ute Indian Tribes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 2509. A bill for the relief of Rose-Marie Barbeau-Quinn; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. MOYNIHAN, and Mr. KERREY):

S. 2510. A bill to establish the Social Security Protection, Preservation, and Reform Commission; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MURKOWSKI (for himself and Mr. STEVENS):

S. 2511. A bill to establish the Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area in the State of Alaska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MOYNIHAN (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 2512. A bill to convey certain Federal properties on Governors Island, New York; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. ROBB, Mr. DODD, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HARKIN, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2513. A bill to strengthen control by consumers over the use and disclosure of their personal financial and health information by financial institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. GRAMS (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. ALLARD):

S. 2514. A bill to improve benefits for members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces and their dependants; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER:

S. 2515. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to guarantee comprehensive health care

coverage for all children born after 2001; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. GRAMS):

S. Res. 303. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the treatment by the Russian Federation of Andrei Babitsky, a Russian journalist working for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. GREGG, and Mr. KERRY):

S. Con. Res. 108. A concurrent resolution designating the week beginning on April 30, 2000, and ending on May 6, 2000 as "National Charter Schools Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, and Mr. DODD):

S. Con. Res. 109. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the ongoing persecution of 13 members of Iran's Jewish community; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. HELMS, Mr. ROBB, and Mr. ABRAHAM):

S. Con. Res. 110. A concurrent resolution congratulating the Republic of Latvia on the tenth anniversary of the reestablishment of its independence from the rule of the former Soviet Union; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DASCHLE (for himself and Mr. LUGAR):

S. 2503. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to authorize States to regulate harmful fuel additives and to require fuel to contain fuel made from renewable sources, to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to require that at least 85 percent of funds appropriated to the Environmental Protection Agency from the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund be distributed to States to carry out cooperative agreements for undertaking corrective action and for enforcement of subtitle I of that act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

RENEWABLE FUELS ACT OF 2000

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, ten years ago I joined with two distinguished colleagues, then-Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole and Senator TOM HARKIN, to introduce the reformulated gasoline (RFG) provision of the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments. The RFG provision, with its minimum oxygen standard, was adopted in the Senate by the overwhelming vote of 69 to 30 and eventually signed into law by President George Bush.

I am proud to say that this program has resulted in substantial improvement in air quality around the coun-

try. It also has stimulated increased production and use of renewable ethanol and other oxygenates needed to meet the minimum oxygen standard.

Unfortunately, an unanticipated development involving the petroleum-based oxygenate MTBE requires us to re-examine the many benefits of the RFG program. The detection of MTBE in ground water around the country has generated considerable debate in recent months over how to deal with this fuel additive and the oxygen requirement of the reformulated gasoline program. The resolution of this debate will have significant consequences for the environment, for farmers and for the rural economy.

The pace of activity to resolve the MTBE issue is accelerating rapidly. Battlegrounds are being drawn as the state of California and its allies focus on scrapping the oxygen requirement.

It is clear that Congress and/or the Clinton administration will respond to the MTBE problem. My focus is on ensuring that that response not only serves the environment, but also retains a prominent place for ethanol—a place that assures long-term, predictable growth of the industry.

I believe a comprehensive legislative solution is necessary in this case—one that recognizes and preserves the important air quality benefits of the RFG program, protects water supplies and leads the nation away from greater dependence on imported oil.

I have worked for the last year with the ethanol industry, Republican and Democratic colleagues in the Senate, the Governor's Ethanol Coalition, environmental organizations and the administration in search of a solution that gives states the tools they need to address MTBE contamination, ensures the future growth of domestic renewable fuels, and prevents supply shortages and price spikes in the nation's fuels supply.

This process has led me to two basic conclusions.

First, the MTBE crisis has left the RFG oxygen requirement vulnerable to legislative attack. Those who doubt this conclusion should reflect on the following facts.

California refiners have shown that clean-burning gasoline can be produced without oxygen.

EPA's Blue Ribbon Panel has recommended that the oxygen requirement be repealed.

The RFG oxygen requirement is opposed by a diverse coalition that includes the American Lung Association, the American Petroleum Institute, the New England States Coordinated Air Use Management agency, the State of California and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC).

Second, support for the oxygen requirement will weaken over time. Improvements in auto emissions control technology will cause the air quality